

"All One?"

John 17:21^a. "That they may all be one."

Most of us have perhaps looked at the official emblem or insignia of the United Church of Christ and have noticed the wording printed around the outer edge of the emblem. In case you cannot remember what it says, it states, "That they may all be one." This is taken from the first portion of the 21st verse of the 17th chapter of the Gospel according to John, which we read as our Scripture for this morning. This ~~was~~ formed a part of the prayer which Jesus was praying before His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

This statement should raise questions in the minds of people as to just what it means. In the emblem of the U.C.C. is it to imply or to mean that all Christians are to be members of the United Church of Christ? Did Jesus mean it in this sense or was there another thought behind it?

Well, if we compare this to other statements that He made in the New Testament, we can readily see that this statement, "That they may all be one," ties in with His total thinking along a certain line. We read for instance in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Now the question arises, "Was Jesus saying that by preaching the Gospel to all ~~men~~ mankind, that "They would all become one?" Did He mean that everyone would become a Christian, merely by the telling of the Gospel? The answer is surprisingly, that many, many will hear the Word and reject it completely. He spelled this out in the parable of the householder, where the owner built a winepress, and planted vines and leased it to tenants. When he sent his servants to collect the fruits due him, the tenants killed the servants. So he sent still others and these were killed as well. Finally in desperation he sent his son to them believing that they would spare him. But the wicked tenants killed him as well. Jesus was comparing this parable to Himself and how men would reject Him, both in His own time and in the future.

But since we are aware ~~of the rejection of Jesus~~ that some will reject the Saviour, does not mean that we must abandon all efforts to reach mankind. It only makes it that

much more urgent. The fact that Christians have used this Scripture over and over does not minimize that it is our supreme task to "Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature." This is known as the Great Commission. All else is secondary.

We need to ask why we haven't Evangelized the world in almost 2000 years. In Proverbs 29:18 we read, "Where there is no vision the people perish." We do not lack money. Last year churches spent enough money on new buildings to evangelize a hundred and eighty worlds this size. We don't lack manpower. Missionaries of this and the past generation have led tens of thousands to the Lord. The only bottleneck is that we lack vision---~~a~~ vision to do what we have been commissioned to do.

We must change our methods. In Roman 13:11 we read, "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." There are 40,000 missionaries in the whole world of 3.7 billion people. Last year all of them by conventional means only reached one half of one percent of an unevangelized world. As a matter of fact, every time somebody was reached for the Lord by conventional ~~ministry~~ missionary work, there were 13 born.

But there is a Scriptural way to evangelize the world in this generation. In Mark 6:39,40 we read, "And He commanded them to make all sit down by companies on the green grass. And they sat down in ranks by hundreds and by fifties." When Christ was faced with feeding the multitudes He knew he had to ^{use a} ~~be~~ systematic method, hence He seated the people in groups of hundreds and fifties. If you will recall the vast numbers of people who came to the Billy Graham Crusade in Seoul Korea, you will remember that this method was used to determine how many people were in attendance. This is how they knew there were over 4 million at the one service. Sections were roped off ~~thxx~~ and each section had been measured and determined that it would hold so many people. Thus the knowledge of a fairly accurate head count.

Well, this is what Jesus was doing, and the disciples said, send them away, But Jesus said the multitude must be fed.

One way in which the multitude will be fed is by the every home crusade sponsored by the World Literature Crusade. In our Scripture for this morning we read as I said before Jesus praying to His Father, "That they may all be one; as Thou Father, art in me, and I in Thee, that they may be one in Us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." In other words in a united effort we can do it. 415 denominations are cooperating in a program known as every home crusade, which is a systematic effort to place two Gospel booklets in every home in a nation. Every prisoner, hospital patient, university student and seaman is reached. Also a very thorough follow-up program is given to all new converts. Every day 1million new people are reached systematically with a printed Gospel message, written in their own language so they can understand it. For those who cannot read, talking messages are being prepared along with a picture type of booklet. These talking messages are low cost cassette of some kind. The beauty of this program is that the booklets are printed in the nation in which they are distributed. The print, the ink and the paper are ~~not~~ supplied by the nation involved. The work of preparing, printing and distributing is all handled by native born people. Thus, the program cannot be accused of being foreign or ~~not~~ being pushed by outside people. So far, one billion, one hundred and seventy million people, one third of the world have been systematically reached, and the World Literature Crusade is averaging 30 to 35 thousand written decisions each month.

Now why is literature the answer instead of conventional missionary methods? First, it greatly multiplies a missionary's outreach. It means that many thousands more can be reached than would be possible in the lifetime of that missionary. Second, it makes missionaries out of tens of thousands of dedicated national Christians. It puts more people into the spreading of the Word, than have ever worked at it before. And third, it enables a person to ponder and re-read what Christ has offered to those who put their trust in

Him. In the privacy of their homes the people can make their decision, spoken to by the Holy Spirit, without pressure of any kind.

In John 17:4, Jesus prayed, "I have glorified Thee on earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do." World Literature Crusade provides toms of literature free of charge to your missionaries along with the methodology to reach every man. Five dollars will provide the Gospel to 1000 people. Every Christian could provide 12,000 people with the Gospel next year for ~~5~~ 5 dollars a month and the finishing of the task that God gave to man could be accomplished.

I wonder how many of you saw the telecast on August 25 for 5 hours on WIIC. If you saw all of it or part of it, would you please raise your hands. Thank you. Now I suppose you were wondering what the change in the usual style of sermon was all about. Well, it came about because I had a free lunch. World Literature Crusade sponsored a luncheon in Pittsburgh prior to Aug. 25, while I was on vacation. Selected ministers and wives were invited. So, Shirley and I went. WIIC picked up the tab for the luncheon and for the five hours of telecasting on Aug. 25. So you can see there are still some people who are interested in spreading the Gospel. Immediately following the luncheon after the mission of World Literature Crusade had been explained to all of us, we were asked if perhaps we would share it with our people. So, since I was full, and sort of felt an obligation I volunteered to share it with you, and thus this message.

If any of you would be interested in supporting this work we could supply you with the address so you could do with it as you saw fit. Now mind, I am not soliciting money for anyone, I am merely making you aware of a worldwide effort to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When you stop to think that one mailing and preparation of the Readers Digest, the paper, the print, the ink, the packaging and so on, could give the Gospel message to 8 billion people which is ~~another time as many people~~ twice the number of people in the world today, when you consider this, you can realize how we waste millions of dollars, while the world all around us falls apart for lack of something to hang

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 8, 1974
REV. RALPH C. LINK, PASTOR
MRS. MARILYN STEPHENSON, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHORUS DIRECTOR
CHRIS CAMPBELL, NANCY LINK - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "LITANY OF THE BELLS" BAYLOR
"ADAGIO" MARTIN

SILENT PRAYER

- *PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 1 "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!"
- *ASCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN
- *EXHORTATION
- *CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "FORGIVE US, O GOD, FOR OUR
FEIBLE AND WEAK EFFORTS TO GLORIFY THEE. WE WOULD
MAGNIFY THY NAME, BUT WE ERR AND STUMBLE ALONG THE
WAY. WE HAVE SET UP OUR ALTAR, BUT WE BLUNDER AS WE
CALL UPON THEE. TAKE AWAY OUR PRIDE AND MAKE US HUMBLE
PERSONS, WORTHY OF WORSHIPING THY HOLY NAME. TEACH US
THE WAY OF THE MASTER. GRANT US A TOUCH OF HIS HUMILITY
AND GIVE US A PORTION OF HIS GRACE. OPEN THE PAGES
OF HIS LIFE AND HELP US TO SEE THE SECRETS WHICH DREW
HIM UNTO THEE. AND MAY WE, THROUGH MECKNESS, LEARN THE
WAY HE WOULD BID US TAKE. AMEN."
- *KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)
- *ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN
- *PRAISE
- *PASTOR: 10 LORD OPEN OUR LIPS.
- *PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE
- *DOXOLOGY No. 551
- SCRIPTURE LESSON: JOHN 17: 1-23
- HYMN No. 380 "O ZION, HASTE, THY MISSION"
- *AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)
- *GLORIA PATRI
- *CALL TO PRAYER
- *PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.
- *PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.
- *PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

OFFERING

- OFFERTORY: "MELODIE" TSCHAIKOWSKY
- ANTHEM: "AT WORSHIP" THOMPSON
- SERMON: "ALL ONE?"
- PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER
- *HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 393 "O BROTHER MAN"
- *BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN
- ORGAN POSTLUDE: "GRAND CHORUS IN A MINOR" DEMOREST
- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----
- THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MRS. GRACE RIDDLE IN MEMORY OF "LOVED ONES".
- SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *WALLY FEDER, JOHN
SNOW, MONT MACKINNEY, JAMES MALONEY, STEVE VARGO.
DEACON AND MRS. CHARLES FENAR WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL
AT THE DOOR TODAY.
- SHORT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY.
- THE ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY WAS 163.
- NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY BARB VARGO AND
KAREN KENNEDY.
- HOSPITALIZED: MRS. ELEANOR McWILLIAMS - ST. MARGARET'S
HOSPITAL - PITTSBURGH. MR. LEO BALFAUF - V.A.
HOSPITAL - PITTSBURGH. MR. LEO BALFAUF - V.A.
- FOR PAST 4 WEEKS. MRS. CYNTHIA SYBERT - BCMH -
DAUGHTER - JENNIFER MARIE BORN SEPT. 5 -
CONGRATULATIONS. *ANOTHER SISTER.*
- WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. ROY PELUGH ON
THEIR 54TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TODAY - BEST WISHES
AND MANY MORE.
- FRIDAY - 8:00 - ARC WEINER ROAST AND HAY RIDE AT
THE HARRY FRY RESIDENCE - BRING YOUR OWN HOT DOGS
AND BUNS. THE HARRY FRY'S AND BOB KNAUER'S ARE IN
CHARGE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS. THIS WILL BE FOR ADULTS
ONLY - ONLY ONE WAGON COULD BE OBTAINED.
- NEXT SUNDAY - SEPT. 15 - THE YOUTH FELLOWSHIP WILL
HAVE THEIR FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR GRADES
7 AND UP - THEY WILL ELECT OFFICERS.
- LADIES DON'T FORGET - THE SOUP AND SALAD WILL BE
COMING UP SOON - OCT. 15TH. ITEMS SHOULD BE STARTED
FOR THE BAZAAR TABLE. SEE ARTICLE UNDER WOMEN'S
FELLOWSHIP - ANYONE HAVING VEGETABLES - PLEASE CALL
LOIS WOGAN (282-1032) - EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.
- REMEMBER - SUN. 22 - CONGREGATIONAL DINNER - 5:30

WELCOME VISITORS: SIGN BOOK.

BISA - OUT OF TOWN - CALL ME.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.